

Today's Topics:

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info on Crystal Radio kit or schematic
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Phone Patch Construction question
PL-259 assembly revisited
Third Party Traffic, MM net and BARF get letters from FCC
Uniden HR-2510 on CB ?

Date: 30 Oct 89 19:57:02 GMT

From: shlump.nac.dec.com!koning.dec.com!koning@decuac.dec.com (Paul Koning)

Subject: Down with S0239 connectors!!

Religious dogma or not, I agree with the original note. The loss issue is probably not the biggest problem at moderate frequencies. But there are several other reasons satisfactory -- to me -- for staying away from "UHF" connectors.

1. They are not weather-resistant. I doubt many if any connectors can claim to be "waterproof" but N and most BNC connectors at least have gaskets.
2. They can't be assembled without intense heat being inflicted on the coax. Foam coax in particular doesn't much care for this.
3. They are inconvenient to plug and unplug (compared to BNC)
(By the way, if you want quick disconnect and high power, take a look at the "C" connector some time. They are unfortunately not common.)
4. They are unnecessarily big (again compared to BNC).

Wherever possible I use BNC connectors. For anything other than microwaves or 1500 W linears that works fine. If I ever get a linear I'll go to N there.

Of course, if you want a real laugh, consider the newfangled crock known as "mini UHF".

paul, n1ld

Date: 30 Oct 89 18:29:50 GMT

From: tank!eecae!cps3xx!usenet@handies.ucar.edu (Usenet file owner)

Subject: info on Crystal Radio kit or schematic

In article <252@ssc.UUCP> tad@ssc.UUCP (Tad Cook) writes:

>The 1N34A diode runs from the antenna side of the coil/cap to one side of
>the earphone (not sure if polarity matters, ...)

It doesn't.

>(I wonder if anyone has built one of these to successfully detect
>shortwave broadcast stations?)

Only if you live very close to the shortwave broadcast station. These
radios are simple detectors with a one pole filter on the front end, and
no amplifier stages. Thus, a strong local station is all that can be
received.

In the rare case that original ideas Kenneth J. Hendrickson N8DGN
are found here, I am responsible. Owen W328, E. Lansing, MI 48825
Internet: hendrick@frith.egr.msu.edu UUCP: ...!uunet!frith!hendrick

Date: 30 Oct 89 20:31:34 GMT
From: cs.utexas.edu!ut-emx!trey@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Trey Garlough)
Subject: Looking for comments on ham demos

In article <35916@apple.Apple.COM>, winter@apple.COM (Patty Winter) writes:

>
> Have any of you ever done amateur radio demonstrations for children
> (or other age groups) in institutions such as convalescent hospitals?
>
> It seems to me that such demos could really brighten the day of kids
> who are otherwise bored and maybe scared. I'm wondering what kind of
> demo someone in that situation might like: VHF or HF? Fancy stuff like
> autodialers, or ordinary chitchat? DXing or stateside?

The university ham club here sets up a table on the West Mall every
semester where they have the usual mundane hf and vhf and packet stuff
set up in an effort to recruit members. But there's no doubt that
the best presentation (by far) is the UHF TV show run by a guy from
the Botany Department who runs around the general area doing remotes
with his 100 mW, battery powered, self contained, antenna on his head
(like Al Franken) ATV station.

This presentation is a real attention getter. Of course, the guy with
the antenna on his head gets a lot of attention, but you also get a crowd
gathered around the table watching the pictures he is sending back. One
time they did a Letterman-type bit where they wandered up to the President's
office and tried to hassle his assistant into letting them out on the
on the President's veranda for a few pictures. This was shortly after
a anti-apartheid, divest now! sit in at the President's office and

accordingly our remote got the routine hassle by the campus cops.

Naturally, this kinda stuff plays really well to the college crowd, but I think it could play in a children's hospital as well. The remote guy could go down to the kitchen and see what's being whipped up for dinner (oooo -- yuck), he could pay a visit to a favorite doctor and he could "explore" the hospital in ways that the children would never be permitted to do on their own.

The factor I consider pivotal to the success of the university club's presentation is that the people involved are having fun with the hobby. That's something the sailboat club, the ski club and the scuba club can't do out on the West Mall. Another good thing is that it makes no demands on the audience. Putting a microphone in front of someone who doesn't want to talk is a bad idea. That requires them to take some kind of action. Personally, I would rather watch than participate when it comes to some activities. The ATV show gives people a chance to warm up to what is going on without requiring a commitment on their part.

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Date: 30 Oct 89 18:32:50 GMT
From: tank!eeca!cps3xx!usenet@handies.ucar.edu (Usenet file owner)
Subject: Phone Patch Construction question

A dual band radio will work much better for a "simplex" autopatch. You can avoid all that nasty sounding clicking, have 100% control over the phone line 100% of the time, and have full duplex (just like a REAL phone) also. No difference from a "cellular" phone, except you aren't paying through the nose for it, and you can't use it for business use.

In the rare case that original ideas Kenneth J. Hendrickson N8DGN
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Date: 30 Oct 89 17:10:29 GMT
From: gem.mps.ohio-state.edu!uwm.edu!ux1.cso.uiuc.edu!deimos.cis.ksu.edu!
harris.cis.ksu.edu!mac@tut.cis.ohio-state.edu (Myron A. Calhoun)
Subject: PL-259 assembly revisited

N0FZD just emailed me a comment:

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>I'm amazed how many people botch up the connectors doing the
>other methods. I remember back when I did it too, but once
>I learned this method, I have used no other.
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and he also reminded me that I omitted a step which is sometimes necessary. Rather than take the chance of it becoming an isolated errata, I'm reposting a cleaned-up version of the original with additional step ef) inserted between steps e) and f):

----- cut here -----

Disassemble the PL completely (there can be either two or three parts):

- 1) the "male" part which has the four little holes
 - 2) the part which screws into part (1), and
 - 3) an optional part which screws into part (2) and which is used only when the coax doesn't already fit tightly into part (2)
- a) If part (3) is used, slide it on the coax.
- b) "Skin" the appropriate amount of outer insulation from the end of the coax, cut through the braid, skin some inner (foam?) insulation, etc. (Many manuals give measurements for how much to cut off.)
- c) Do NOT "fan" out the braid, but squeeze it down around the center conductor and slide the coax into part (2) (almost like licking a sewing thread and threading it through a needle's eye). Push the coax up tight as far as it will go. If part (3) is not used, and if the coax is thick enough, one may even screw part (2) onto the outer insulation of the coax; if part (3) is used, screw it into part (2) now.
- d) NOW fan the braid out at a 90 degree angle but do NOT fold it back over the forepart of part (2). Then use scissors to cut the braid off SHORT so it just barely clears part (2). See "picture":

with one hole showing

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Part (2)----->      ===== + =====+
*****insulation*****+
+++braid+++++++
foamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoam
===center conductor=====
foamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoamfoam
+++braid+++++++
*****insulation*****+
Part (2)----->      ===== + =====+
with one hole showing                                     ^

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- e) Carefully solder the braid to the EDGE of part (2) | right here, all the way around the end of part (2).
- ef) Unless one has been very careful, part (2) won't fit into part (1) without some cleanup: clip and/or use a file to remove any superfluous bumps created during the solder job just performed until part (2) will fit into part (1).
- f) Screw part (2) into part (1) tightly (use two pairs of pliers). Solder center conductor to part (1).

Forget the four little holes altogether!

The electrical connection depends on metal-to-metal contact of parts (1) and (2). I've never had any problems (and I've long been eligible for the QCWA!) Connector is trivial to disassemble (if you can find the pliers again) and to reuse.

--Myron, W0PBV.

--

Myron A. Calhoun, PhD EE, W0PBV, (913) 532-6350 (work), 539-4448 (home).

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Date: Mon, 30 Oct 89 11:34:18 EST

From: bill gunshannon <702WFG%SCRVMSYS.BITNET@CORNELLC.cit.cornell.edu>

Subject: Third Party Traffic, MM net and BARF get letters from FCC

>Date: 28 Oct 89 14:20:13 GMT

>From: asuvax!anasaz!john@handies.ucar.edu (John Moore)

>Subject: Third Party Traffic, MM net and BARF get letters from FCC

>

>In article <968@lopez.UUCP> flash@lopez.UUCP (Gary Bourgois) writes:

>|to. In addition to emergency traffic, friendly greetings etc are not any

>|threat to any commercial carrier. It is when amateurs blatantly solicit

>|phone patch traffic that the activity becomes objectionable. I do not

>

> It may be objectionable, but unless it contains business traffic or

>comes from a country without a third party agreement, it is NOT illegal.

>There has long been a myth in amateur radio that phone patches (or

>autopatches) cannot be used to evade tolls. It is just that - a myth.

>

Let's not be too hasty with this statement either. It may not violate Part 97 but that isn't the only law we need be concerned about. I think you will find that the use of Amateur Radio to evade tolls could be taken

into court under the FTC rules concerning "unfair restraint of trade."

I have long argued that what was legal and acceptable when the Part 97 rules for PATCHING were written are like all the rest of the Amateur rules, badly out of date and even worse out of touch with reality. When we were first given the right to do third party traffic including phone patches the communications situation/industry was very different from what it is today. There were many aprts of the country that had no telephone service at all (ie. ALASKA) and in many others the "PHONE" was a wooden box with a crank down at the general store 30 miles away in town. During this time hams were a vital part of the nations communications network. Children attended school using ham radio, doctors were able to head of epidemics by ordering vaccines over ham radio and people were able to get in touch with people who were not reachable by any other means.

But today things are different. Today you can call anywhere in the world from the comfort of your living room using the telephone. There is nowhere (that I am aware of) in the country where phone service is not available and few places outside the US. It has even reached the point where the number of cars on the highways with phones outnumbers the hams. Even the argument about calling in traffic accidents and emergencies is no longer valid. Most cellular phone companies even offer emergency calls (like 911) for free to the cellular user. IMHO this makes it real hard to justify phone patching and in particular AUTO-PATCHING for any reason other than to get out of the cost of a cellular phone.

KB3YV

bill gunshannon
702WFG@SCRVMSYS.BITNET

Date: 30 Oct 89 16:15:17 GMT
From: sun-barr!newstop!east!hienergy!jimv@lll-winken.llnl.gov (Jim Vienneau - CSD Program Manager)
Subject: Uniden HR-2510 on CB ?

> Does anyone know what conversions are possible for the Uniden HR2510 so
> that it can handle 11M (CB) activity as well as its 10M capability? I
> think I saw some note about this many months ago. I presume that I
> have the "potted" electronics vintage rig.

The newer (last 6 months or so) Uniden rigs have the PLL/VCO potted in epoxy to prevent just what you describe. CBers and even taxi companies were buying them up to run in the "freeband" (aka 27.405 to 28.0 MHz).

Also, I'm sure your aware that even a HAM cannot legally operate a non
type accepted radio on the CB band.

Having said that, you can still modify the potted radios to cover 26.990 to
29.990 MHZ, but I won't tell you how here.

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End of INFO-HAMS Digest V89 Issue #825
